

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for communicating the consequences of a user preference setting on related components, comprising:

5 displaying a component control for a selected component, the component control operable to effect a user preference setting concerning the selected component; and

10 displaying an operating status for a component related to the selected component, the operating status of the related component resulting from effecting the user preference setting on the selected component.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising displaying an operating status for the selected component and each related component, the operating status of each component reflecting the consequences of effecting the user preference setting on the selected component.

20 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining the operating status of a related component resulting from effecting the user preference setting on the selected component based on user defined component relationships.

25 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining the operating status of a related component resulting from effecting the user preference setting on the selected component based on component behavior  
30 observed during operation of the information handling system.

5        5.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising  
displaying a plurality of component controls, each of the  
plurality of component controls corresponding to a  
respective component and operable to effect a user  
preference setting on its respective component.

6.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
displaying an operating status for a plurality of  
related components;  
10       displaying a component control for at least one of  
the related components; and  
adjusting the operating status of the plurality of  
related components substantially simultaneously with an  
adjustment of the component control.

15       7.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising  
communicating the user preference setting to a device  
manager, the device manager operable to adjust operation  
of the selected component in accordance with the user  
20       preference setting.

8. An information handling system, comprising:  
a memory;  
a processor operably coupled to the memory;  
a plurality of components operably coupled to the  
5 memory and the processor, each component having an  
operating status;  
a display device operably coupled to the memory and  
the processor; and  
a program of instructions storable in the memory and  
10 executable by the processor, the program of instructions  
operable to display the operating status for a first  
component, receive a desired modification in operation  
for the first component, determine the operating status  
for each operationally linked component resulting from  
15 the modification in operation for the first component,  
and display on the display device the operational status  
for the first component and at least one operationally  
linked component.

20 9. The information handling system of Claim 8,  
further comprising the program of instructions operable  
to define the operational links between components.

25 10. The information handling system of Claim 9,  
further comprising the program of instructions operable  
to ascertain configuration of the information handling  
system to define the operational links between  
components.

11. The information handling system of Claim 9,  
further comprising the program of instructions operable  
to define the operational links between components in  
accordance with user supplied parameters.

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12. The information handling system of Claim 9,  
further comprising the program of instructions operable  
to calculate the effects resulting from the modification  
in operation according to the defined operational links.

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13. The information handling system of Claim 9,  
further comprising the program of instructions operable  
to lock the operating status of at least one component  
such that modification of one or more related components  
is limited by the defined operational links and the  
operating status of the locked component.

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14. The information handling system of Claim 8,  
further comprising the program of instructions operable  
to display a plurality of performance controls, the  
performance controls operable to effect a modification in  
operation of an associated component and display the  
operating status for one or more components related to  
each performance controls.

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15. The information handling system of Claim 8,  
further comprising the program of instructions operable  
to implement the modification in operation.

16. The information handling system of Claim 8,  
further comprising the program of instruction operable to  
substantially simultaneously display the operating status  
for the first component, receive the desired modification  
5 in operation for the first component, and display on the  
display device the operational status for the first  
component and at least one operationally linked  
component.

10 17. The information handling system of Claim 8,  
further comprising the performance control representing a  
component control for a software module, the software  
module responsible for controlling a plurality of  
operationally linked component parameters.

18. A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in communicating the effects of user preference settings in an information handling system, the program including executable instructions that cause a computer to:

define relationships between a plurality of information handling system components;

display at least one performance control, the performance control operable to effect at least one desired change in operation of a configurable information handling system component;

receive, through the at least one performance control, a desired change in operation of the configurable information handling system component;

calculate, based on the defined relationships, effects on one or more related information handling system components resulting from the desired change in operation of the configurable information handling system component; and

display an operating status for the related information handling system components resulting from effecting the desired change.

19. The computer program of Claim 18, further operable to display a performance control for each configurable information handling system component.

20. The computer program of Claim 19, further operable to simultaneously display the operating status of each information handling system component related to the configurable information handling system components.

21. The computer program of Claim 18, further  
operable to define the relationships between the  
plurality of information handling system components based  
5 on performance data for the current information handling  
system configuration.

22. The computer program of Claim 18, further  
operable to selectively fix the operating status of one  
10 or more configurable information handling system  
components.